



Christmas decorations light up the night in Franklin Park.

## Franklin Park Faces Multiple Pandemic-Enhanced Problems

by Matthew Arbach

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

On December 16, the Greenbelt City Council had, in the words of Mayor Colin Byrd, a tough, but important discussion with representatives of the Franklin Park (FP) management office. Covid-19 has put enormous pressures on both residents and Fieldstone, owner of FP, while also exacerbating some longer standing issues.

Director of Resident Services

Denise Knight said “we have had our hands full across the board” and that “everything has changed for us as we maneuver this pandemic and meet the needs of our residents.” Gail Comfort, vice president of operations, hoped that the city was aware of the burdens upon FP’s ownership as well. FP Asset Manager Lea Garcia said the company has “closed its books at a 40 percent delinquency rate” (the normal rate is 5 percent) impinging on

See PANDEMIC, page 11

## Foundation Awards Emergency Grant to Good Samaritan Fund

by Stephanie Calhoun

The Greenbelt Community Foundation has awarded an unprecedented emergency grant to the City of Greenbelt. The Foundation’s Board, which usually awards grants to local organizations to operate their own programs, has unanimously decided to award \$10,000 to the city’s Good Samaritan Fund.

With the citizens of Greenbelt

facing major challenges during the Covid-19 crisis, the Greenbelt Community Foundation board made the decision to directly impact the people most in need. The Good Samaritan Fund was chosen to facilitate awarding funds to families with children to pay for utilities – electric, water, gas and internet. Of particular importance is assisting school-age

children to continue to participate in virtual education. Ensuring that these children have internet access is critical to this goal.

The city will determine which families, 40 in total, will receive the \$250 awards. The city will use the Foundation’s stipulation that school-age children be

See GRANT, page 9



Kathy Reynolds is pictured with the Toys for Tots contributions gathered by the American Legion.

## Holiday Season Council Talks Recycling, Maglev, Cameras

by Kathleen Gallagher

The regular Greenbelt City Council meeting on December 14 had some ups and downs. For starters, the first 35 minutes appeared only for those logged into the Zoom meeting, while would-be watchers on the cable channels or streaming from the city website were instead mesmerized by excessive pondering of the city flag.

One item not shown on cable

or streaming included the introduction by Planning Director Terri Hruby of Jill Grant, of Jill Grant and Associates, the firm recently engaged by the city to advise on the maglev project. Among other interests, the firm specializes in providing legal counsel on environmental issues.

### America Recycles

The first item that was in part available to the full audience was

the presentation of a proclamation to Luisa Robles, the city’s sustainability specialist, in recognition of America Recycles Day. Robles provided several status reports and encouraged everyone to keep on recycling, although some of the outlets were still not available during the pandemic.

Councilmember Judith Davis suggested that everyone’s burning question was where plastic

See COUNCIL, page 6

### What Goes On

#### Friday, December 25

Christmas Day: City Offices Closed

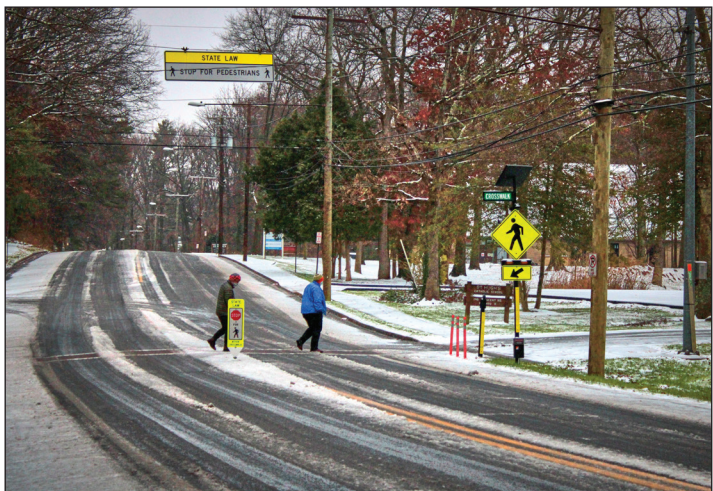
#### Monday, December 28

8 p.m. City Council Worksession: Budget Update and Maglev Strategy (tentative)

#### Wednesday, December 30

8 p.m. Council Worksession: TBD

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



Intrepid pedestrians brave the first snowfall at the Crescent Road crosswalk at St. Hugh's.

### From the Archives

## MacGregor Christmas Tree Dedicated by Woman’s Club

– Greenbelt Cooperator, November 30, 1950

The Greenbelt Christmas Tree will be dedicated tomorrow night at the Center to the late Angus MacGregor, former landscape supervisor for Greenbelt, by the Woman’s Club. A bronze plaque set in a concrete base will be installed at the base of the tree, which reads, “In Memory of Angus MacGregor, Pioneer Landscape Gardener, Greenbelt, Maryland.”

Mr. MacGregor died last December 20 (1949). He was associated with the development of Greenbelt from its earliest days, and was responsible for all of the landscaping which has made our city so attractive. Sixty-seven years old when he died, MacGregor was born in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, Scotland. He came to the United States in 1914 at the request of J. P. Morgan to landscape Morgan’s estate. After working for owners of several large estates, he moved to Maryland in 1931, when he went to work at the Beltsville Research Center. His association with

Greenbelt followed.

Mr. MacGregor had long looked with disfavor on the cutting and discarding of trees that were used for Christmas at the city’s center. He advocated the planting of one tree for the purpose at the customary site. Mrs. Leon G. Benefiel, representing the Woman’s Club of Greenbelt, had brought to the attention of the city council the idea of using one tree, but the city never acted on the matter, after expressing approval of the idea. It was originally planned to plant a tree near the high school, the two public schools and the parochial school, with the students contributing for the lights.

The plan is still being considered by the city recreation department for the future.

Mrs. Catherine Reed, the first principal of the Center elementary school and present supervisor of elementary schools in the county, will make the dedication address. Mrs. Reed and MacGregor proposed the plan for

See TREE, page 5



# Letters to the Editor

## Housing Help Needed

There is great need now to help people across Greenbelt stay in their homes. We have reopened the GHI Member-to-Member Covid-19 Relief Fund to raise additional money. More fees have been deferred under GHI's Covid policy and we need another \$8,000. Due to the community's generosity, we raised over \$12,000 this fall, and we're hopeful that together we'll make the new goal. Our city was founded on cooperation during the Great Depression and during this time of major economic hardship, cooperation will help get us through. We hope you'll join us with a new donation or a repeat one – no gift is too small. We also encourage you to support the funds administered by the city to help renters and those who need support with other expenses. Donate to the GHI Fund at [chuffed.org/project/ghi-relief-fund](http://chuffed.org/project/ghi-relief-fund).  
*Jason Luly*  
*Cynthia Newcomer*

## Thanks for Support Of Arts and Artists

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program would like to thank all those who attended the first-ever online edition of the Festival of Lights Juried Art and Craft Fair. Running from November 27 to December 20, the Fair had more than 2,800 visitors and over 4,600 views. 54 artists, artisans and authors participated, in addition to three Greenbelt nonprofit organizations. We appreciate guests' support for these exhibitors, especially in this difficult year when many of their in-person sales opportunities were cancelled due to the pandemic. Two-thirds of the artists reported that this event was more successful for them than other online shows in which they participated this year, and they are most grateful for the community support. Several participating artists created an online presence for their businesses for the first time for this show, and they will continue to reap the benefits into the future. We appreciate Greenbelters shopping small, shopping local and buying hand-made! The Arts Program would like to thank the Greenbelt News Review for the terrific weekly artist features that helped us celebrate the talents of our hard-working participants, and also helped to maintain awareness of the event throughout its new, extended format. Our thanks also to Di Quynn Reno, Taylor Hardy, Adam Campanile and the Community Center welcome desk staff for facilitating the popular package concierge for purchased items. We wish to extend our gratitude to Jennifer Sterling, Scott Crawford and Beverly Palau of the city's Public Information Office; they have been incredibly supportive, creative and diligent partners in the build-out of the Fair's multimedia event page and in social media and Virtual Recreation Center promotions. Thanks also to Artist-in-Residence Racquel Keller for leading the fun DIY wrapping paper workshop, and fellow Artist-in-Residence Rachel Cross for her interactive art installation on the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center fence. I would also like to recognize additional arts

staff members who have done a great job behind the scenes, supporting these programs: Anne Gardner for exhibitor communications and tax reporting; Amanda Larsen for workshop logistics and supply ordering and distribution; and Daria Parsa, posting artist features daily on social media with additional support from our colleague Rebekah Sutfin. We hope that everyone will enjoy their new treasures, and we wish you Happy Holidays!  
*Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor*  
*Greenbelt Recreation*

## Thanks, Public Works

Thanks to the Thursday refuse/recycling crew who went above and beyond the call of duty in picking up furniture, boxes and other items emptied from the Gardenway house owned by our late husband and father. We donated as much as possible to the Salvation Army and Value Village, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic the realm of donation is limited and we were not sure what to do with the rest. The Public Works employees made an enormous task much easier for us, and we are very grateful for their assistance. Our family would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to neighbors Ray, Rose, Melanie and Deanna who carried out many heavy boxes and helped out in other ways.  
*Rachel Glick*

## News Review Kudos

I want you to know how much we love the News Review. It is so well done. In fact, I have a copy here on my desk to contact Missy to see if she can do some work for us. Really appreciate you dropping the copies off at the Post – makes it easy for us to get them!  
*Sandi Dutton*  
*Treasurer, American Legion*

## Keeping Our Town Litter Free

As you look around Greenbelt, the streets are usually clean, without discarded trash laying around. Last night as I was walking the dog on one of those streets, I met a man with a large black trash bag. He was picking up trash. That man, whose name is Bob, walks every night through Greenbelt picking up the trash that his fellow citizens have thoughtlessly tossed. Next time you notice the clean streets of our town, thank Bob. And if you see Bob in person, thank him again. He expects no accolades

but deserves them. Thank you, Bob.  
*Claudia Jones*

## Safety Tip

A candle in the window is a lovely idea. The image of the Greenbelt Museum lighting was warming. However, here is a candles tip. Candelabras get knocked over. Oil lamps spill. Using a real, flame-bearing candle can be curtains. Especially when curtains or window treatments are near the flame, or are unrestrained and can move toward it, they can easily catch fire. If synthetic, they can carry flame across the room in a moment. We ourselves keep candles or oil lamps away from the window, on a large metal tray, that can catch anything spilled or knocked over. Consider this approach. Additional holiday safety suggestions are at [nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes](http://nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes).  
*David Shapiro*

## Leaf Blower Noise Hazard

As usual, fellow bicyclist, Jeff Lemieux, is right. (See Greenbelt News Review, December 17, Cut the Mow and Blow Landscape Crews.) I will add that one becomes more likely to get run over by a motor vehicle if they cannot hear it coming due to leaf blower noise.  
*Bill Norwood*

## More Leaf Ranting

Problem solved! Took me one hour with a rake – no air pollution, no intolerable noise, no blocking traffic lanes or sightlines. If only such efficient, clean, low-cost technologies were available to our local government and housing organizations! I've decided to leave the bags on the street gutter for now – they seem to have a slight traffic calming effect, narrowing the lanes a little. If nobody picks them up by Thursday's rain, I'll just compost them in our backyard forest. Finally, and most happily, I haven't been fired (yet) for having my Board of Directors call disrupted, first by the noise and then by the crash! That's great news for Greenbelt city staff and council, since last time I was unemployed for a while I got a ton of advocacy work done. PS. The underlying problems here are two:

See **LETTERS**, page 8



Leaf bags sit on the side of the road.



NO SNOW? NO SLEIGH? NO PROBLEM.



## Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published. All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request. All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



# Greenbelt News Review

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



# Community Events

## GAC Presents Old-Time Christmas Radio Shows

Greenbelt Arts Center is starting a new monthly series of old-time radio shows from the 1940s and 1950s. Each month, one or more new shows will be presented on YouTube.

The Old-Time-Radio series starts this month with two programs. “Suspense – ’Twas the Night Before Christmas” tells the story of a girl waiting for her parents to come home on December 24. “My Friend Irma – Irma Wants Extra Money for Christmas” is another Christmas story.

The series is directed by Rikki Howie Lacewell and is presented in the Zoom format. In contrast to actual radio programs, the actors are visible in the video, and costumes and facial expressions add to the story. The sound effects are done in the traditional Foley manner with a collection of shoes and miniature doors.

The programs are available from the website [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org). It is free to watch the shows, but donations are accepted.

To participate in the January program, virtual auditions will be held on January 7 and 9. Watch the website for details.

## At the Library

Due to the surge in coronavirus cases, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System has temporarily suspended curbside service through Tuesday, January 12. The library buildings will be closed to staff during this period to ensure their and customers’ safety. Book drops will also be closed, as there will be no staff in the building to process returned items. Curbside service is scheduled to resume on Wednesday, January 13.

The online library will still be available 24/7 with access to ebooks, audiobooks, online resources, virtual library card registration and account renewals. Customers may place hold requests for physical materials during the suspension period, but holds will not be processed until staff returns to the buildings.

Library staff will telework during the temporary suspension period, continuing to serve customers through the Ask a Librarian/Biblio Consulta service, the online library and social media. This service will operate with modified hours: Mondays through Fridays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may contact library staff at 240-455-5451 or [askalibrarian@pgcmlls.info](mailto:askalibrarian@pgcmlls.info). Regular call center hours will resume on Tuesday, January 12 at 1 p.m.

The library parking lot will still serve as a hot spot for drive-up Wi-Fi during the closure.



R2D2 is dressed for the holidays at 42 Ridge Road.

## Declutter to Feed Hungry Neighbors

Holiday home decluttering can help local food providers struggling to feed neighbors hardest hit by this pandemic recession. It’s definitely been a dumpster fire of a year, but rather than feed the dumpster, why not drop those unwanted belongings behind the Greenbelt Community Church on Saturday or Sunday, January 2 and 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Clothing and other soft goods should be packed together, preferably in white kitchen bags. Small household “hard goods,” smaller than 12” x 18”, should be combined and bagged as densely as possible.

These extra items no longer needed will add up to real money, with every penny going to local food kitchens and pantries: Help by Phone, Meals on Wheels, Greenbelt Good Samaritan Fund and Community Place Café. Folks with big hearts but no clutter are welcome to contribute, too, with checks payable to Greenbelt Community UCC; write Charity Drive for the Hungry in the memo line.

## Looking to Connect Across Greenbelt

Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG) is a group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. A multicultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of Greenbelters, CAG is working to enhance quality of life through connections and relationships. To research ways to cope in these difficult times, the group is building a Caring and Connecting Toolkit in association with leading mental health and community health leaders ([bit.ly/CAGtoolkit](http://bit.ly/CAGtoolkit)). The group invites all members of the community and their families to access clinically proven positive self-talk techniques at [healthline.com/health/positive-self-talk](http://healthline.com/health/positive-self-talk).

To find out about the group’s monthly meetings in the New Year, Connecting Across Greenbelt: Community Conversations, email [communityconnections@gbmail.com](mailto:communityconnections@gbmail.com).



## Collaborative Listening To Build Relationships

The Prince George’s Community Collaborative Resolution Center (PGCCRC) offers a virtual learning series designed to help improve relationships between individuals, whether family, neighbors or work colleagues. This local mediation center has partnered with the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy to help fulfill one of the city’s goals of building a community that embraces diversity and fosters relationships across cultural and ethnic lines.

The four-part series, on successive Saturdays starting January 9 from 10 a.m. to noon, is called Collaborative Listening for Relationship Building. The goal of the series is to help families and individuals develop tools to better communicate in ways that strengthen their relationships, even when conversations are hard. Developing these skills will help individuals closed in at home by the coronavirus and on a collective level when the community begins to reconnect as the pandemic subsides.

The topic of the January 9 session is Listening When It’s Hard. The remaining sessions are: January 16, Speaking When Emotions Are High; January 23, Asking Questions That Encourage Understanding; and January 30, Brainstorming for Agreements and Resolutions.

All sessions are free and can be accessed through Eventbrite: [eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-listening-for-relationship-building-tickets-130063903637?aff=ebdssbeac](http://eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-listening-for-relationship-building-tickets-130063903637?aff=ebdssbeac). Or simply go to [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and search for Collaborative Listening. For more information email the PGCCRC at [pgresolutioncenter@gmail.com](mailto:pgresolutioncenter@gmail.com).

## Art Classes Registration Open

Give the gift of experience, knowledge and skill this holiday season by signing up your loved one for a Greenbelt Recreation visual art or performing arts class. Classes start in early January. Most classes are currently virtual. Find more information by going to [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) and clicking on Winter Classes.



The Merry Ukulettes are, from left, Li'l Dan Celdran, JoEllen Sarff, Mary Moien and Kathy Bartolomeo.

## GCC Green Team Hosts Holiday Party

The Green Team of Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ invites the community to a multicultural Simple Holiday Outreach Party on Sunday, December 27 at 7 p.m. Contact Jane Young at [gccjane@aol.com](mailto:gccjane@aol.com) for information and for the Zoom link. This takes the place of the monthly Environmental Justice program held every fourth Sunday of the month, which will resume in January. Come share holiday traditions and how celebrations have changed this strange year.

## Intro to Mindfulness

This five-week series starts Thursday, January 7. Mindfulness meditation helps support resilience during change and enhances relationships. This course focuses on helping build the habit of mindfulness and allows participants to experience these benefits first-hand.

The class, which will be offered by donation, will be led online by Heidi Schuttenberg ([heidi.schuttenberg@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.schuttenberg@gmail.com)) on Thursdays, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Find out more and register for the course at [sites.google.com/view/intro-to-mindfulness/home](https://sites.google.com/view/intro-to-mindfulness/home).



## Merry Ukulettes Bring Some Holiday Cheer

The Merry Ukulettes, an all-female ukulele group, brings the community a little holiday cheer on Greenbelt Access TV (GATe). The Merry Ukulettes play seven holiday favorites, and local holiday light displays are featured during their performance.

Take a moment from busy schedules and join in the sing-a-long. Visit the GATe channel (Verizon - 19; Comcast - 77), click on GreenbeltAccessTV.org or visit GATe’s Facebook page.





## Golden Age News

Happy and healthy holiday greetings to all Greenbelt senior citizens. Whether or not a current member of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club, any Greenbelt senior is invited to join the online meetings and mingle with a friendly group.

The club has been successfully meeting online for a couple of months now. Meetings are at the regular time, 11 a.m. each Wednesday, via Zoom or by telephone call-in. To join the Zoom or phone list, contact Rebekah Sutfin, the city’s therapeutic recreation supervisor (senior and inclusion programs) at 240-542-2056 (leave a message) or at [rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rsutfin@greenbeltmd.gov).

The Golden Age Club will celebrate New Year’s Eve at its December 30 meeting.

GATe GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION Friday December 25 - Thursday December 31		
PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATe ON  
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Family/Comedy • 1950	• The Great Rupert • Jimmy Durante • Directed by Irving Pichel
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Martin Luther King Jr v Greenbelt • Thomas Johnson v Charles Carroll
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Family/Comedy • 1950	• The Great Rupert • Jimmy Durante • Directed by Irving Pichel
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Martin Luther King Jr v Greenbelt • Thomas Johnson v Charles Carroll
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10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATe Archive
WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77 STREAMING LIVE at <a href="http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream">www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream</a>		

# Happy Holidays

THE GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW, OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EDITOR, AND STAFF WISH YOU A PEACEFUL AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON. LET PEACE AND HOPE REMAIN IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU BEGIN A NEW YEAR. WITH MANY THANKS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!



Update

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

by Susan Walker and Jim Fischer

The Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA) thanks all the Greenbelters who have been there for their Greenbelt neighbors in need. Since October, \$23,375 has been donated to the city’s Emergency Assistance Fund (eviction relief) and \$17,100 to the Good Samaritan Fund, both administered by Greenbelt CARES. The Good Samaritan Fund has helped families with electric, phone, water, internet and gas utility bills. It provided grocery gift cards to the food pantry at St. Hugh Catholic Church to supplement its non-perishable food with fresh food. The pantry is helping 50 families a week through this crisis, with the shelves restocked each week from the Greenbelt Co-op’s \$5 food donation bags. The pantry helped 40 families with Thanksgiving dinner and now with Christmas dinner. The families have been incredibly grateful; many had never needed help before.

In addition, \$440,000 from the Federal CARES Act helped 87 families avoid eviction by paying up to six months back rent depending on when those in each household lost their job due to the coronavirus. Another \$55,000 in CARES Act funds went to food relief via St. Hugh’s and College Park Meals on Wheels.

However, the future is still grim, and neighbors may be evicted once the CDC Eviction Moratorium ends December 31, although Governor Larry Hogan has signed an executive order that delays evictions as long as there is a pandemic health emergency. The courts are allowing evictions in cases where the orders do not apply.

Applications for unemployment continue to rise and many jobs are not coming back as expected.

Consequently, the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Good Samaritan Fund continue to need community financial support to prevent neighbors from falling through holes in the safety net. Donate by making out a check to the City of Greenbelt, and indicate in the memo section the fund to which it is given. Then mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770; or place the check in the secure drop-box (outside the door facing the flagpoles) at that address.

The city website’s Charitable Fund page ([greenbeltnmd.gov/donations](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/donations)) is also available. Once the online form is completed and submitted, a payment page will come up for credit card or Paypal information.

Greenbelt Food Pantry is located at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church, 135 Crescent Road. Non-perishable food donations can be put in the pink plastic bin outside the rectory side door; gift cards (\$50 or \$100 recommended) can be put through the mail slot in the door. You can purchase \$5 food bags at the Co-op and pay for them at checkout.

One additional thought, now that it seems Congress has approved another round of stimulus checks – even to those who don’t need the money – is that you consider donating the check amount to the city’s emergency funds.

Thanks to Greenbelters for being good neighbors!

*Susan Walker and Jim Fischer are members of the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association.*

Obituaries

Our Neighbors

Margaret Smith




PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Margaret Elizabeth (McGinn) Smith died suddenly on December 8, 2020. Mrs. Smith was a kind, thoughtful and generous person who touched the hearts and lives of many. Upon her retirement from Metro (WMATA), she went to work for the Bowie Baysox.

Mrs. Smith had lived in Greenbelt since the early 1980s. She enjoyed all the amenities that Greenbelt had to offer and loved participating in the annual photo contest held in conjunction with the Labor Day Festival. She was also an avid reader of the Greenbelt News Review.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband Bill, four step-children, her five siblings and many other members of her extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Margaret and Virgil Henry Parker. A Christian Mass will be held on Sunday, December 27 at noon at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4000 30th Street, Mt. Rainier.

Condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Elizabeth Smith, who knew her as Snookie, and looked forward to seeing her entries into the Labor Day Festival photo contest each year.

We also extend our sympathies to the family of Bruce Knight, former resident of Greenbelt, who died on December 9.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on  [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

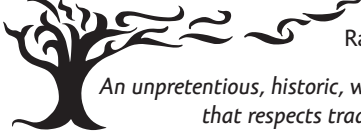
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.

Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.

10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm


Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

“If you desire with all your heart, friendship with every race on earth, your thought, spiritual and positive, will spread; it will become the desire of others, growing stronger and stronger, until it reaches the minds of all men.” – ‘Abdul’-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 27 10 a.m.



"Kwanzaa, an All Ages Service Day of Celebration and Assessment"



DARTT Co-Chair Carmelita Carter-Sykes; with Clark Ritz, Worship Associate; the Chalice Dancers; and Children of PBUUC

This service, sponsored by our Diversity Anti/Racism Transformation Team (DARTT), will feature traditional music, drumming, kinara lighting ritual by PBUUC children, the Chalice Dancers and talk by DARTT members on Sankofa, Looking Back to Find Hope to Begin Anew in the Kwanzaa tradition of assessment as part of this end of year celebration. ONLINE ONLY. Streaming Information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

The Bible Says...

Merry Christmas!

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a ONLINE

[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a just world for all

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

Join Us on Facebook Live Sunday at 10:15

Reflections: Faiths, Stories, Listening

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH


RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link: [FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

Worship with us at

Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical Confessional Reformed Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 10:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm


[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

Instagram/Facebook/YouTube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>

[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

301-474-4212

 @GreenbeltBaptist

Merry Christmas

from MCF Community Church

Come Celebrate Online! Every Sunday @ 10a-11:15a Stream Online-Anytime!



[MCFcc.org](http://MCFcc.org)



### City Notes

The Museum’s holiday blog, featuring early 1960s footage of Santa visiting Woodland Hills, attracted over 100 views.

Fleet and Street Maintenance serviced snow plows and plowed streets. Refuse/Recycling collected 27.72 tons of refuse and 13.36 tons of recyclables, and weighed food scraps. Building Maintenance did plumbing installation and repairs and air purifiers were installed in the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center fitness wing.

Park Rangers taped off the Schrom Hills Park pavilion to discourage large gatherings. After numerous adoptions, the Animal Shelter houses two cats and three dogs.

Santa and Mrs. Claus talked with excited youngsters via North Pole Calling and, on the Virtual Recreation Center, Greenbelt’s Concert Band offered a Holiday Lights Concert.

The Community Center hosted Public Works Stormwater Management training and GAIL/ CARES produce/diaper distribution. Thirty-eight Fall arts offerings drew 300 registrations and the virtual Festival of Lights attracted over 4,300 views.

Therapeutic Recreation hosted a Zoom Celebration for 15 Golden Agers and provided frozen meals for 39 seniors.

### TREE

continued from page 1

one tree in the early days of Greenbelt.

In a letter to the editor, Mrs. Aimee Slye proposed the dedication of a Christmas tree to MacGregor, following his death. The Cooperator supported the idea editorially, expressing the hope that it would be done this Christmas.

A program following the dedication has been planned by the city recreation department.



Beware! The Grinch is spotted on Ridge Road.

### Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.

See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 1

Monday, December 28 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Budget Update**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

**In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).**

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force
- Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**

### CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY’S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND:** This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas).. This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:** Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

**GREENBELT RECREATION:** Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:** Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

### Now you may donate online at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/donations).

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Road 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

### FREE TUTORING OFFERED BY GREENBELT CARES

**Does your child need help with Math, Reading, Social Studies, or other School work?**

Where: Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring  
When: WINTER 2021 (January 4- March 25)  
Ages 6 – 18 (Must be Prince George’s County Resident)  
Contact us to Enroll: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov) or 202-740-6473

### GREENBELT CARES

**Do you want to earn your GED?**

FREE GED Preparation Classes

Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring  
WINTER 2021 (January 5 - March 25)  
Ages 16 +  
(Must be Prince George’s County Resident)  
Contact us to Enroll: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 202-740-6473

**For city information, meetings, events, services and more visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)**  
**Follow @cityofgreenbelt on social media.**

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed  
Friday, December 25,  
and Friday, January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year’s Holidays.

### REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 21 and December 28  
Monday Route – no change  
Tuesday Route – no change  
Wednesday Route – no change  
Thursday Route – no change  
There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1.

### GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Friday, December 25, and Friday, January 1.

### HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING NOW AVAILABLE ON CITY OF GREENBELT YOUTUBE AND OTHER PLATFORMS!

**CANDLE IN THE WINDOW:** Featuring City staffers and other community service personnel placing a lighted candle in the windows of their respective facilities in hopes of one day welcoming everyone back. Available at [https://youtu.be/DOmR\\_6S0zF4](https://youtu.be/DOmR_6S0zF4)

**GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION 33rd ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS:** Recognizing this year’s outstanding Police Officer, Civilian, Volunteer, Public Works Employee and Fire Department Fire Fighter/EMT at <https://youtu.be/Z2SwEGcqlNo>

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT – ENCORE!** Enjoy an encore of the annual Holiday Lights Concert by the Greenbelt Concert Band, under the direction of Joan Rackey. This year, we bring you an encore performance of the 2019 concert, which was filmed live. Settle in with a mug of cocoa or a cup of egg nog and enjoy the music! On YouTube at [https://youtu.be/xipKk\\_TX4v4](https://youtu.be/xipKk_TX4v4)

### LIGHT UP THE NIGHT WITH HOPE:

To mark the season, Greenbelt Recreation is presenting a heartwarming new video program titled Light Up The Night With Hope: A Celebration of Music and Caring. The program features musical performances by the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir, the Eleanor Roosevelt Women’s Chamber Ensemble, Greenbelt Recreation’s Creative Kids Camp, and Greenbelt vocalists Amanda Sorensen and Aidan Larkin.

The program also highlights how Greenbelt responds to neighbors in need, focusing on three programs that address food insecurity.

Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

### GREENBELT RECREATION WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE 2021

Check out the Winter Activity Guide  
Registration is ongoing  
Classes begin the week of January 4, 2021

Explore our Activity Guide for lots of options for all ages and interests. We offer seasonal special events and varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations, a chance to learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!

Please visit our Virtual Recreation Center [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or give us a call at 301-397-2200 for more information.

### GREENBELT CARES

Do you want to learn English?  
FREE (Gratis) ESOL Classes

Where: Online Lessons  
When: WINTER 2021 (January 4- March 25)  
Adult class, ages 21+  
(Must be Prince George’s County Resident)  
Contact us to Enroll:  
Email: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov)  
Or call: 202-740-6473

### SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards! Apply now at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)



COUNCIL continued from page 1

bags could be recycled now that most stores are not accepting them. Robles said the two closest options are Giant and Home Depot, both of which are working with Trex, the company that uses plastics as a wood substitute. Councilmember Edward Putens volunteered that Safeway at Greenway Center is also still accepting plastic bags, in the space near one of the store exits.

Petitions & Requests

Under Petitions and Requests, Lore Rosenthal read a statement from Lucy Silver and herself questioning the city council on what steps it would take to protect people who may be evicted given that the city has not passed legislation barring evictions. Bill Orleans then spoke to say he thought the council should give renewed consideration to the legislation they had not adopted.

SCMaglev

SCMaglev Public/Agency Coordination Plan, Updated October 2020: Davis had asked Hruby to look into several questions related to Greenbelt’s status with regard to this project as it compares with that of other municipalities. Hruby reported on progress on that front, and Grant provided elaboration on the confusing nature of some of the terms involved. Davis made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Emmett Jordan, to send a letter Hruby had suggested be sent to the environmental section of the Maryland Transit Administration. The motion carried unanimously.

SCMaglev Action Request, Writing Campaign to Request Extended DEIS Commenting Period: Davis had asked that this item be added to the agenda to send letters to appropriate agencies and elected officials to request an extension to the commenting period. She said the complexity and scale of the project require that much more time be allowed, at least 180 days. She moved that council develop a letter with the assistance of planning staff to be sent out. Jordan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Jordan also mentioned having talked to State Senator Paul Pinsky, who is willing to send letters and requested more information about doing so.

PG 406-21, Prince George’s County-Land Use-Magnetic Levitation Transportation System Siting (Prince George’s County Stop the Maglev Act of 2021): This bill would prohibit taking certain actions or undertaking certain types of construction within certain areas of the county, effectively stopping the project. A draft letter was attached for support of the bill and to send to the city’s delegation. Davis moved support of the bill. Jordan seconded, and the motion was supported by everyone but Byrd, who abstained.

Security Cameras?

One item of proposed city legislation appeared on the agenda

for first reading: City of Greenbelt Apartment Electronic Security Ordinance. At its September 14 regular meeting, council discussed a request from the mayor for the city solicitor to draft legislation to require apartment complexes to install security cameras in police control areas where 30 or more violent crimes occur annually. The draft ordinance was presented for first reading. Comments from city staff had also been shared with council regarding concerns about resources and ability to monitor and enforce the legislation, as well as potential city liability.

Councilmember Leta Mach objected strongly to the proposed ordinance, saying it could place the city in a position of great liability. Moreover, she said, the city cannot afford it. She suggested that it might be more appropriate for the city to post information about features of rental apartments citywide and let people make their own decisions.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked if the city solicitor was aware of any precedents for a city to have such a requirement for rental property. He noted that Greenbelt has not even required commercial areas to do that. He said ordinarily council does not discuss proposed legislation at first reading, but in this case there has been no real discussion. City Solicitor Todd Pounds said he was not aware of any such precedents.

Byrd said he was willing to consider a worksession, as well as other approaches to the problem, but he thinks it is time for the city to do more than talk about crime, especially in Greenbelt West.

Davis made a motion to table the topic until council could receive more legal opinion and until a worksession is held. Councilmember Silke Pope seconded the motion. She said she would want to see in writing the pros and cons from staff and the city solicitor, as well as opinion on just what the role of the city should be.

Improved Medicare for All

The mayor had asked that this item be added to the agenda for purposes of his making a motion “to send a letter to the County Council asking it to pass a resolution in support of Improved Medicare for All to show local support for single-payer health care, seeking to gain support of this by the city’s Federal Delegation including the Senators.” Jordan seconded the motion.

In some amazement, Davis pointed out that this is a complicated national issue with many opinions. It’s very controversial, she said, and many unions oppose it. She said she herself is most concerned about people who have no insurance, and expanded Obamacare might be a good solution. Council has not heard from

its residents about their preferences on this. They haven’t had a full discussion of it. She said she would not support a letter representing one viewpoint that had not been fully discussed.

Expressing his agreement with Davis, Putens said “Ditto J,” adding that there are many versions of “single payer,” and he has no idea which one this draft is promoting.

Roberts said he would support the motion, since he favors “single payer” and does not think it would have to eliminate private insurance.

Jordan agreed the statement is not specific or clear enough. He suggested that if something is coming to council for support, it should be presented with the necessary written background that is needed by council and staff.

Byrd agreed to withdraw his motion and to have a worksession on the topic. Nonetheless, he added, “If you have to have a worksession for every agenda item you’re in trouble in terms of productivity and efficiency.”

Davis replied that when other information has been provided that is adequate, there is not necessarily a need for a worksession. She added that he should not put items on an agenda and assume that council is supposed to rubber-stamp them “automatically, like little bobble heads.” She said, “You are asking councilmembers not to do their jobs, not to do the duties that we were elected to do.”

Other items covered at this meeting will be reported in other articles.

Greenbelt Holiday Scenes



PHOTO BY DEVIN FENDLAY

The Fendlay house on Lastner Lane is all lit up.



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

A modern nighttime interpretation of the Nativity scene can be seen at 1 Gardenway.



PHOTO BY RACHEL CHANNON

Snowy day from inside 31 Court Ridge Road

A Joyous Yuletide

To all our wonderful friends and neighbors. May 2021 bring you health and happiness. (A little wealth might be welcome too.)

From Robert and Sylvia Lewis

Season’s Greetings

from Anwar and Amal at

Greenbelt Barber and Stylist

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

wishing you joy, peace and health

Happy Holidays!

As we near the end of an unexpected year, I am reflecting on how we view ‘home.’ It’s a place we cherish and call our own. Whether you are able to spend time with your family this holiday season or not, I hope that you, too, are rediscovering the meaning of home and the significance it holds for you.

Cheers to new beginnings!

Kim Kash

Realtor®

m 301.789.6294

kim.kash@compass.com

COMPASS

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# Alsobrooks Addresses a Wide Variety of Issues with Council

by Cathie Meetre

*This is the third of three parts of a report on the November 30 worksession between Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Greenbelt City Council.*

In its meeting with County Executive Alsobrooks, council addressed a wide variety of city- and county-related issues such as affordable housing, Capital Bike-share, TheBus service, permits and flooding.

## Affordable Housing

Alsobrooks was concerned about housing affordability, stating that she wants people to age here and see their children grow up here. She said that the county is currently one of the most desirable places in the region for investment and that, ironically, the coronavirus pandemic has made the county more attractive than ever. She believes intentional decisions should be made that make affordability key to the development strategy. She described the creation of the county housing trust fund to make investments inside the Beltway possible, though she noted that revenue shortfalls (\$100M in size) may slow things down. The county's availability of "breathable spaces" is important to people because of the pandemic. Alsobrooks quoted recent real estate sales data indicating that the county is the hottest local jurisdiction for house purchasing, with buyers paying 100 percent of the asking price because they want to live with more space in a less dense place but with good access to urban lifestyles. She noted that in Montgomery County, houses are fetching less than the asking price.

Councilmember Leta Mach offered the suggestion that limited-equity cooperatives are a model that the county could use. (Information is available on the National Association of Housing Cooperatives website, [coophousing.org](http://coophousing.org).) Councilmember Judith Davis, however, posed the question, “affordable housing for whom?” She pointed to townhouses (including in Greenbelt) “sprouting up all over the place,” that are being sold for \$500K. She said that a typical worker, e.g., a WMATA driver, cannot afford to buy these townhouses and that renting is also becoming unaffordable. She believed that the county needs to look at what affordable really is and consider mixed-income and inclusionary zoning. Alsobrooks was also concerned about townhomes which, because of their density, demand a lot of local amenities in terms of schools and other services. Alsobrooks thinks a smarter alternative would be to invest in existing communities and to promote mixed-income neighborhood living at every level. Referring to her Hillcrest Heights childhood, she said she grew up where some were rich and some poor but all were neighbors. Councilmember Rodney Roberts, perhaps casting a note of cynicism, viewed inclusionary zoning as a mechanism for developers to have more density.

## Capital Bike Share

In response to a question by

Councilmember Emmett Jordan, Martin Harris, deputy director of the county Department of Public Works and Transportation, commented that bike-share stations are coming to Greenbelt. He explained that there had been a significant gap between winning grants and receiving the money. During that gap, the federal government had promulgated new Buy America requirements that, because components of the stations came from Canada, meant the county had to find a way to meet the federal requirements without going back to square one. He said that the stations should come to Greenbelt by late spring or early summer 2021. Jordan expressed frustration over the continual delays, saying that it had been five or six years ago that the city put up funding for a feasibility study.

## TheBus Service

County Chief of Transportation Planning Anthony Foster discussed TheBus, the county's bus line. He explained that Routes 11 and 15X, which serve Greenbelt, have been suspended during the pandemic because they either parallel other routes or serve NASA which has been teleworking. Route 16 service, however, has been improved. Next year they will be looking at these deactivated lines to bring them back better than before. His department expects to present proposals in early spring on efficient relaunch and noted that the county had recently launched Saturday services.

Jordan thanked the county for the addition of Saturday service and noted the opportunity for better overall coverage if TheBus and WMATA work together. In response to Jordan's questions about safety, Foster noted that buses are still free and for Covid-protection purposes are loaded from the back door (except for handicapped access). Buses have ridership limitations of 15 passengers. They do have the ability to provide additional buses on a line if it is persistently at the limit. The focus, according to Foster, was on moving people around who really need to go and on safety for riders and operators. He stated that they are not pulling back at all on safety.

## Permits

Davis said that the county has had short-term rental permitting in place but that the city is not getting good cooperation from the county to know what permits are issued. Permits Supervisor Clarence Mosely, from the Department of Permits, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), needed to research where the county is on permitting and licensing for these rentals, and he and Alsobrooks promised to get back to the city on the subject.

Jordan wondered with coronavirus and its impact on the local economy whether the county administration has a plan to make it easier for businesses to pivot to alternative approaches or configurations. Mosely referred to DPIE's new small business development office which provides support in licensing and permitting to make sure that applications go through quickly. Processing time for the initial application (which is all-electronic) is 24 to 48 hours, and the entire process takes four to six weeks. He noted that the back and forth between reviewers and businesses is the most significant factor.

Alsobrooks praised the “phenomenal job” that Melinda Bolling, DPIE’s new director, has been doing, despite having herself been critically ill with the coronavirus. DPIE was the first county department to shift to virtual services. In answer to a further question from Jordan, Mosely stated that both the health department and DPIE must review restaurant changes.

## Flooding

Jordan brought up persistent flooding of Greenbelt's Parke Crescent apartments and asked for county resolution with the city. The problem, which dates back 15 or more years, is related to the storm drain system and there is a question of who has jurisdiction over the system, city or county. Modifications were made to divert stormwater runoff years ago, but it still isn't enough. Historically, Davis said that, at the time, the county said the problem was the size of the storm drain and that the decision was made that it was the county's job.

Questions relating to the proposed animal shelter were also referred to staff for research.

# Saturn Visits Jupiter. Local Astronomers Outwit Clouds

by Conrad Terrill

Saturn paid a visit to its neighboring planet Jupiter this past Monday. A dozen or two masked area astronomy enthusiasts independently decided that Greenbelt's Observatory Hill would be a good place from which to witness the event. Undeterred by an overcast sky, their combined will power appeared to persuade the clouds to part for half an hour. For those without

telescopes or extremely sharp eyesight, Jupiter and Saturn appeared as a single planet, angularly separated by half as much as Alcor and Mizar, the ages-old eyesight-test double star in the handle of the Big Dipper. As near as the two planets seemed to be from our perspective, Saturn was actually nearly half a billion miles further away.



PHOTO BY JAMES AUGUSTIN

**Footprints on the Lake path show how many braved the first snowfall on Wednesday, December 16.**



GREENBELT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

FROM OUR  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

WE WOULD LIKE TO  
WISH YOU ALL  
A

*Happy Holiday*

[illegible]

# PROJECT COLLECTOR

**From the December, 1940, Greenbelt Cooperator, precursor newspaper to the Greenbelt News Review**



# Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## 2020 Sees Capitol Cadillac, Longtime Businesses Close

by Matt Neufeld

Two weeks ago, the News Review ran the first installment of the story about Capitol Cadillac closing down after 86 years in operation. That story included some history about Capitol Cadillac. This week, the second installment includes some additional history and a recap about the recent closings of additional longtime businesses in the area.

According to The History of Washington, D.C., Cadillac Dealerships by Richard Sills et. al. ([clcpotomacregion.org](http://clcpotomacregion.org)), Floyd DeSoto Akers took over the representation of Cadillac and LaSalle automobiles in 1934 under the name of the Capitol Cadillac Company.

Akers's successor in 1970 as president of the company was his son-in-law, Howard L. Jobe. Jobe was a native of New York City but had lived in the Washington area since 1941. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a graduate of Georgetown University. During the 1950s, he worked in the automotive classified advertising department of The Washington Post. In the late 1950s, he became a manager at Capitol Cadillac-Oldsmobile. For a short time, he also worked for an affiliated company, Capitol Parisian Motors, which responded to the increasing demand for imports by offering French-made cars for sale. During the 1970s, the Cadillac Division of General Motors was encouraging its metropolitan dealers to leave the cities and establish themselves in the growing suburbs, where space was available to expand sales and service facilities. As a result, Jobe successfully planned and executed Capitol's move to Greenbelt in 1979. Akers did not live to see the dealership's departure from Washington; he died in 1978, at the age of 83. Jobe continued his tenure at the helm of Capitol Cadillac-Oldsmobile until his death in 1990.

The November 2020 closure of Capitol Cadillac after 86 years in operation and 41 years of operating in Greenbelt, was acknowledged via a statement sent for this story by Greenbelt City Manager Nicole Ard. Ard said she did not know the specific reason Capitol Cadillac closed down.

"Although the city is not aware of the reasoning behind this move, earlier this year city staff helped Capitol Cadillac successfully complete an application for business relief funds," Ard said in her statement. "A county press release announced a \$100,000 relief grant was awarded. The city is thankful for the company's many years of community service to Greenbelt. When an appropriate time can be arranged, council will recognize the company for its many years of service."

### Other Closures

Capitol Cadillac is at least the seventh in a series of unique, longtime, much-loved and legendary local and regional landmark

businesses to close their doors in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in recent years.

Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant, in Silver Spring, closed down in November 2020 and the restaurant was put up for lease for a new business – after 90 years. The owners shut down the restaurant due, in part, to the impact on the business from the Covid-19 pandemic, a source confirmed. Another longtime local favorite, The Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant, on Greenbelt Road in Berwyn Heights, officially closed near the start of September 2017 after 47 years. The closure occurred just weeks after the death of the restaurant's owner. Yet another restaurant, the much-loved Maryland Food Co-op, closed down operations at the Maryland Student Union on the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park on

May 31, 2019, after 44 years in business. And, notably, the Original Ledo Restaurant, also located in College Park, shut its doors for good under the ownership of the original owners on November 22, 2020 after 65 years in business.

The family-owned Behnke's Nursery, in Beltsville – known and loved by gardeners in the area and beyond – closed down in June 2019 after 89 years. In Beltway Plaza, on Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt, the Luv'n Time clothing and novelty adult shop and the Books-A-Million bookstore, both shut down amid the pandemic sometime during the spring and summer of 2020. Luv'n Time was in business for an estimated 35 years, and Books-A-Million – the last remaining bookstore in Greenbelt – was open for an estimated 25 years.



### Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

# Letters continued

1. Outlier traffic speeds on Ridge Road are dangerously high and the police aren't interested. Therefore, we need to try to control safety through traffic-calming design, lane narrowing, bump-outs and speed humps with crosswalks, and better sidewalk areas, possibly including plantings and traffic furniture, particularly where the sidewalk doesn't currently exist (either on-street or crowded by unnecessary parking spaces). Greenbelt council and staff have been stiff-arming Laurie and me on this for years, but we're very concerned that the next improvement on the street actually make it safer, not just faster and more asphalt heavy.

2. Greenbelt needs to show some urgency on pollution. Leaf blowers and giant leaf eating machines may seem more efficient than rakes and bags, but they're using our air as an open sewer for noxious fumes, disrupting our work from home, adding gratuitous CO2 pollution, and creating a traffic hazard. Those costs need to be factored in, and they are large. We can cut our carbon footprint and reduce toxic air pollution if we work a little harder and smarter.

Jeff Lemieux

**Laments Pool Closures**  
Merry Christmas, Greenbelt! I have been a resident of Greenbelt since September 2016. I have been disappointed by the closing

of the Old Greenbelt Theatre, the Greenbelt Library and the off-and-on closing of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center.

I never had a year like this involving the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center. In early January I fractured my ankle and was forced to miss going there for eight weeks. I came back for a week and they had to close the pool until early August for Covid-19. During the first weekend of the closure, I went back to my old indoor pool in Silver Spring, and then they had to close also because of Covid-19. But when summer began, the swim club I belonged to since 1983 reopened a month late and stayed open without interruption until September 20. I was going to that pool on weekends and holidays and Greenbelt on weekdays once they reopened in August. In mid-September Greenbelt closed again for two days to move its operations from outdoors to indoors. The indoor pool reopened on September 18 and stayed open until November. I got a letter from the Aquatic & Fitness Center Supervisor saying the pool will reopen again on December 7 but that never happened. I feel sorry for those who depend on the pool for their exercise.

I pray and hope that the pool closure does not go into 2021 but right now I have earned credit for free swimming in Greenbelt until June 2021.

Russell Dick

### CHALK DUST: A TEACHER'S TALE

An anecdotal memoir by William Manion who taught in PGCPs from 1968-2016 (38 years at ERHS in Greenbelt) Ebook and Paperback available on Amazon.

## WELCOME THE NEW YEAR WITH GREENBELT CO-OP!

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- Traditional Foods to Bring GOOD LUCK
- Citrus Fest to Ring in a HEALTHY New Year



# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Handgun Arrest**  
December 12, 11:15 p.m., 5805 Cherrywood Lane. A 20-year-old resident was arrested and charged with possession of a handgun under the age of 21, malicious destruction and reckless endangerment after officers responded to a report of someone firing a shot into an unoccupied residence. He was observed in the hallway of the apartment building with a handgun tucked into his waistband and was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Shooting**  
December 16, 4:01 a.m., Franklin Park. A man reported that at approximately 2:30 a.m. he was involved in a domestic argument in his vehicle and got out to take a walk in an unknown location. A short time later he was approached by two men who demanded his shoes and jacket. The man refused and walked away. He then heard gunshots and was shot in the foot. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

**Robbery**  
December 14, 8:40 p.m., 5902 Cherrywood Terrace. A man approached a woman in the parking lot, displayed a handgun and demanded her car keys. After he got them, he threw them back to the woman and fled on foot toward Springhill Lake Elementary School.

**Assault**  
December 10, 2:07 p.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. An employee at City Trends reported that she saw a man and two women suspected of shoplifting from previous incidents, enter the store. The employee then contacted mall security personnel. When the security person arrived and attempted to intervene, the man grabbed her by the throat and pushed her aside. He and the two women then fled. The security officer declined treatment for minor injuries.

**Fraud**  
December 16, 3:30 p.m., 7900 block Vanity Fair Drive. A man

who claimed to be with Amazon called a woman and told her that there had been some fraudulent activity on her account. He convinced her to provide information that would allow him to gain access to her computer and lock her out. He then told her that he would access her bank account if she did not send him money.

**Theft**  
December 10, 11:02 a.m., 5997 Springhill Drive. Parcels were taken from the front stoop of a residence.

December 11, 12:51 p.m., 5997 Springhill Drive. A patio chair was removed from a patio.  
December 15, 9:07 a.m., 6986 Hanover Parkway. A parcel was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

December 16, 4:59 p.m., 7595 Greenbelt Road. Someone took a wallet from a shopper at Safeway. It was found in the store with money missing.

**Burglary**  
December 14, 12:33 a.m., 7573 Greenbelt Road. A forced entry was made into Dollar Store and money was removed from a safe.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A black 2015 Yamaha motorcycle was stolen from the 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. A silver 2020 Dodge Charger with Maryland tags 16973CJ was taken from the 7900 block Mandan Road.

A 2011 GMC U-Haul panel truck reported stolen to Prince George's County Police was recovered in the 8100 block of Lakecrest Drive.

Rear Maryland tag 7AS7684 was taken in the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane.

Windows were broken in two cars at 7509 Mandan Road. A wallet was removed from one and nothing appeared to have been taken from the other. Two other attempted thefts occurred, both in the 9100 and 9166 blocks of Edmonston Road and after windows were broken to gain access.

A vehicle was spray-painted in the 9300 block of Edmonston Road.

## Greenbelt Holiday Happenings



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Santa visits Franklin Park, escorted by the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Greenbelt Police Department.



PHOTO BY KRISTA ATTEBERRY

Eleanor Roosevelt High School stages a Teacher Appreciation drive-by at the school on Tuesday, December 22. Teachers were able to pick up a free lunch, funded by the PTSA, plus other goodies from the school administration.



## GRANT continued from page 1

present in the family, as well as the existing eligibility requirements in place for the Fund.

According to Greenbelt Cares Director Liz Park, "The city will administer the application and disbursement of the funds for utility assistance. These funds will provide great relief to families who are suffering financially due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

Carol Shaw, Greenbelt Community Foundation Board president emerita, stated, "The board has been discussing how the Foundation could help in a proactive way since this crisis began.

This fund was the perfect way to directly help the citizens of Greenbelt with funds raised here in the City of Greenbelt."

The Foundation has already provided the city with the funds, and families should start to hear about their receipt of funds in early 2021.

Stephanie Calhoun is the incoming president of the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

### Cars / Truck Auction

Dec. 10, 2020 – Dec. 24, 2020 10 am

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Waldorf Md, 20601

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2002 TOYOTA CAMRY  
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2014 TIQUAN VW  
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To Our Greenbelt Friends & Neighbors

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Leta and Darrell Mach

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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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**LAWN & ORDER** would like to thank those in the Greenbelt community that demonstrated their superior taste and economic wisdom by employing Lawn & Order during the past year. For everyone else, there is still time to clean up your yard, bushes, hedges, and prepare for next year. So call Dennis at 240.264.7638 and please remember to stay safe.

**LEW'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY** – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

**DAVE'S HANDYMAN SERVICE** – Drywall work, painting interior/exterior, light construction, trim work, deck and shed repairs, cleaning and sealing. 443-404-0449

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**FRANK'S VIDEO CONVERSION** – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies slides to DVD. LP records to CD. (H) 240-295-3994, (C) 703-216-7293.

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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



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From all of us here at Town Center Realty, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday.





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PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PANDEMIC continued from page 1

ownership’s ability to pay its own bills and provide needed services, with foreclosure a possibility if the trend continues unabated.

Throughout the meeting FP staff expressed their sincere commitment to responding to and addressing problems of any kind, most importantly financial, at the moment. There has been a moratorium on evictions (only 22 this year, the majority occurring before the pandemic) as well as rent increases (in keeping with the recent city ordinance). Repayment plans are available, dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Knight asked to be notified in the event any vindictive or unprofessional staff response to resident complaints gets reported to the city, saying “that is not our style” to behave like that.

Several FP residents expressed their deep frustration over chronic, unaddressed issues, a good deal of them occurring before the pandemic but only intensified afterwards. Complaints concerning unanswered or tardy responses for maintenance and insufficient pest control were at the top of the list, but other complaints included mold and fungus growth, leaks, appliance and gas stove disrepair, low water pressure and insufficient parking, especially in handicapped spots.

Council gave its opinion that these issues are unacceptable, with Byrd describing them as troubling, urging that FP staff deal with them immediately.

FP staff pledged to look into all these cases, with Knight admitting moments when “we’re not perfect,” and that “things fall through the cracks.” She hoped to move forward in a positive direction and achieve better communication with residents. Knight said that plans are in the works to do a phased, section-by-section assessment of the entire development to better address individual problems.

Council felt that customer service complaints were not centered around the management per se, with the problem focused more on the rest of the staff. Byrd said that “while management has a good reputation, Franklin Park as a whole has to step it up.”

Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers said that while most crime trends were not up this

year, there has been a substantial rise in gun crime. Knight said that domestic incidents are “through the roof,” adding that violence in general during the pandemic has become an international trend. Knight said that most gun incidents are perpetrated by non-residents. Bowers said that a new FP community officer, Shanise Hawkins, has been assigned to the neighborhood, along with increased patrols, strategically placed security cameras and mental health counselors. Car vandalism and thefts were also cited by residents. Councilmember Edward Putens said he was not satisfied with even one shooting, let alone many. Knight said that the complex is working closely with Greenbelt police.

Brad Horton, vice president of facilities and procurement, laid out some of the ongoing physical plant renovations. In 2021, 15 buildings will receive new Atrium brand windows and sliders, with improvements to be continued over the next five to seven years. The windows, at the moment, were being replaced on an as-needed basis, according to Comfort. “As well,” said Horton in a separate interview, “our plan is to start in 2021 to convert 200 units from the original two pipe fan coil unit system to a new high efficiency LG mini-split with a ducted air handling unit.” “These upgrades would also continue over a five- to seven-year period,” he added, and “copper piping will be replaced with container and pressure vessel units in all buildings and housing units.” Comfort stressed, though, that while budgeted, “these renovations have not yet been approved and are not yet moving forward.”

Councilmember Emmett Jordan brought up the issue of

overflowing trash and ineffective recycling. Knight stated that in the pandemic “trash is times 10,” conceding the need for more dumpsters and better recycling bins. Republic has become the complex’s new trash hauling company with pick-ups Monday to Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Horton reported much outside dumping with repercussions for doing so amounting to little more than a warning from police. Jordan suggested a camera surveillance system, but Horton countered that this would be costly. He was open to suggestions, with Knight saying that residents are responsible for their own bulk trash.

Horton said that a preventive pest control treatment is done four times a year, with unit infestations also being dealt with on an ongoing basis. Roach infestations were a major complaint, posing a health risk and being embarrassing, said one resident. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was skeptical of the efficacy of the approach by maintenance.

Byrd stressed that residents should seek out city code enforcement if needed, though expressing the hope that FP would handle these issues on their own.

Jordan was concerned with the lack of a long-term plan in these uncertain times, asking for more transparency if the financial situation were to worsen. Comfort said that at present the plan is to regroup after the first quarter, hoping a return to some normalcy at that time, saying that this out-

look is a result of looking into “as much of a crystal ball as I have today.”

Resident Ric Gordon was glad for the community feedback, saying that while “truth can sting, at the end of the day, dialogue was good.” While praising management for their responsiveness, he cited a similar experience analogous to saying “I care, yet in the end voting a different way.” Roberts said that “what we are hearing from management and residents are two different things.” Byrd suggested having more frequent meetings than once a year to air grievances would be useful. Councilmember Judith Davis ended the meeting by thanking FP staff for sticking with this and listening to all the complaints and concerns. She cited the clear anger and frustration being shared, hoping that FP was taking notes and will follow up.



A holiday bow adorns a fence at the Lake.

PHOTO BY HELENOR MESIAS

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 Cape Cod Home Investors - priced to sell! 3BR, 1.5BA home with large fenced yard, \$149,900. dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900
 Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.
 Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.
 Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.
 Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.
 Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced yard, addition to back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.
 4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.
 Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w/ front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen, full bath, pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.
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 2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900
 Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center



# Season's Greetings from the City of Greenbelt

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2020 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

**CITY COUNCIL**

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